

Siberian emigres welcomed in U.S.

ST. LOUIS (EP)—Pentecostals prepared a warm welcome July 19 for 13 members of their faith arriving in the United States after a two-decade struggle to leave the Soviet Union. The group, including seven who sought refuge at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on grounds of religious persecution, was to have arrived late July 19 and been taken shopping almost immediately for clothing and other necessities.

Reynolds named FMB missionary

Loretta Reynolds, a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, has been named a missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. She will serve in Botswana, where she will be a women's worker. She is minister of education at Bayside Church, Foster City, Calif.

A graduate also of Golden Gate Seminary in California where she earned a master of divinity degree, Miss Reynolds served as a Mississippi Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Zambia and was a FMB journeyman for two years in the Virgin Islands.

She received a Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union scholarship last year which is given to missions volunteers and funded through the WMU Special Day Offering.

Miss Reynolds will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation.

"They left Russia with nothing," said Nathaniel A. Urshan, general superintendent of the St. Louis-based denomination. "When the Russians said, 'You go,' you go. They were afraid to wait." The Siberian Pentecostals included Maria Chmykhalov and a son, Timofei, 21. Maria Chmykhalov was one of the seven persons who dashed into the embassy in June 1978 seeking refuge and help in emigrating to a land where they could worship as they please.

At the embassy they met Urshan, whose father, Andrew B. Urshan, founded the Pentecostal movement in Russia in 1911. "My dad told me before he passed away that there would come a time when we could help the Russian Pentecostals," Urshan said. "He asked me to please help them."

Urshan and other members of the church have been working for the last several years to help the

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Tabloid format

A new format for the Baptist Record, a tabloid, will get a trial run on Aug. 25. Readers are asked to pay particular attention to that issue and respond with their comments. The Baptist Record staff feels a tabloid format could be made into a more attractive product, but readers' opinions will be carefully and thoughtfully considered. This is a major consideration in the life of a publication that belongs to all Mississippi Baptists. The Baptist Record is a ministry in which all Mississippi Baptists have a share. We hope to hear what Mississippi Baptists have to say about the concept.—Editor

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Tennessee suit

"Integrated auxiliary" definition still plagues

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)—The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention has been dismissed as a plaintiff in the lawsuit it had filed jointly with Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc. against the Internal Revenue Service.

The suit had been filed Feb. 16 in U.S. District Court for Middle Tennessee, Cookeville Division, to contest penalties levied by IRS against the children's homes for its refusal to file Information Form 990.

In an action which may have impact outside Tennessee, Judge L. Clure Morton instructed the IRS to submit to TBCH attorneys its definitions of "interchurch agency, church and association or convention of churches." However, Morton instructed IRS to provide these definitions "in the main."

The definitions could provide a consistent outline of what an "integrated auxiliary" of individual churches,

state conventions, and the national Southern Baptist Convention legally is.

July 15, Morton dismissed the TBC Executive Board since it is not a corporate entity which has been assessed penalties. Morton did advise the attorneys for the Executive Board that if a separate lawsuit was filed by the board it might be consolidated with the TBCH suit and heard at the same time.

The suit seeks to recover \$17,675 paid by TBCH in penalties and interest in what was termed "unlawful assessments." The TBCH and TBC Executive Board contended the children's homes are not required under Internal Revenue Act of 1976 to file Information Form 990 and to file such forms would "result in an excessive entanglement of government in the function of the church which is violative of the U.S. Constitution, including the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment."

The IRS Act of 1976 was interpreted by IRS regulations to mean certain religious organizations, such as Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, were not "integrated auxiliaries" of churches and conventions of churches and therefore are subject to government inquiries and possible taxation.

Also at the hearing, Morton ruled TBCH could include in the suit \$11,990 in penalties and interest paid by TBCH in 1980, 1981, 1982, in addition to \$17,675 in penalties and interest paid by TBCH in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

In April 1981, TBCH was informed it would be assessed penalties and interest for refusal to file Form 990. In May the TBC Executive Board voted to "reiterate its position on the separation of church and state by taking such actions as is necessary, including retaining legal counsel, to support the refusal of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes to file Form 990."

Neuquen evangelism

In Argentina, A.M.E.N. is ministry, love imperative

By Don McGregor

A visit to the two Argentine provinces of Neuquen and Rio Negro earlier this year proved to be a surprising albeit a delightful experience.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board, and I were there to determine how the partnership arrangement between Mississippi Baptists and the Baptists of the nations of the Rio de la Plata could be beneficial to the churches of those two provinces. During a trip two years earlier, we had not been able to visit Neuquen and Rio Negro.

The major cities of these two provinces are just across the Neuquen River from each other. They are the city of Neuquen in Neuquen and Cipolletti in Rio Negro. Neuquen is the larger of the two. And while we visited only Cipolletti in the Rio Negro Province, we traveled somewhat extensively in the Neuquen Province.

At least it felt like it was extensive. Kelly and I, missionary Don Mines; and an Argentine pastor, Guillermo Corales, all rode together for 13 hours in the front of a half-ton pickup.

Our travel took us almost to the border of Chile in the Andes Mountains. The focal point of our trip was Lake Alumine, a very beautiful setting within sight of Chile. As we headed west from Neuquen we soon ran out of pavement and wound our way up into the mountains on dirt and gravel roads that sometimes were little more than

one lane. Fortunately, the only traffic was the Indian families bringing their herds of horses, cattle, and sheep down from the higher elevations of summer pastures to more clement weather for the winter. Summer and winter are reversed in the southern hemisphere.

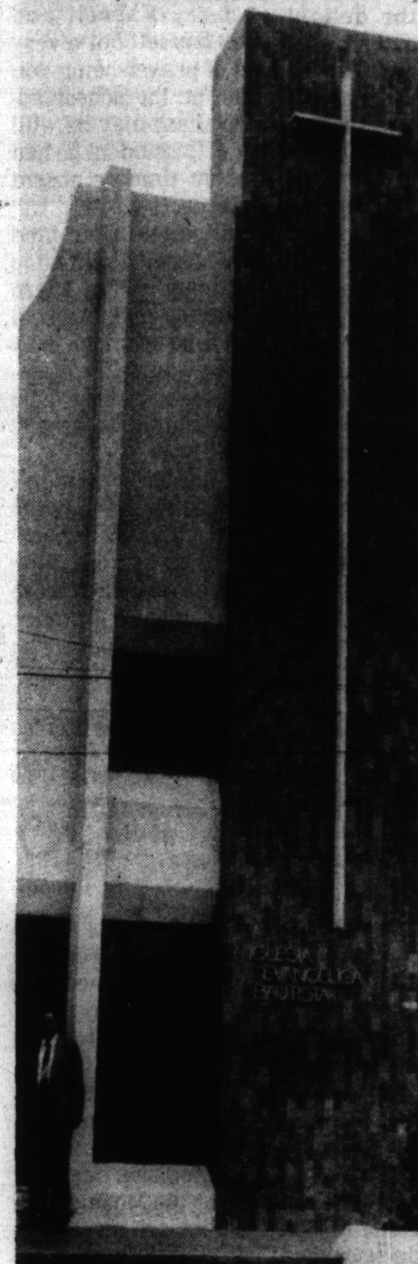
At one point along the way we were able to look across the mountains and see a smoking volcano located in Chile.

The snow caps on the Andes were beautiful indeed. Most of this part of western Argentina is dry, sparsely settled, and has little vegetation. As one travels into the mountains, however, there is more greenery; and in the area surrounding Lake Alumine there are some beautiful streams feeding the lake.

Most of our time was spent in Neuquen visiting the amazing ministry of First Baptist Church. The pastor of the church is Lorenzo Klink, a man of Dutch descent who stands inches taller than those around him and seems to have a heart as big as his stature.

The church, in addition to its regular ministry, has a school with kindergarten and two grades, a hospital, and the finest ambulance in the province. It also is operating a number of mission

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Lorenzo Klink, president of the Argentina Baptist Convention, stands outside the First Baptist Church of Neuquen, Argentina, where he is pastor.

Ham hookup planned during Men's Rally

Mark Alexander, missionary in Argentina, a part of the Rio de la Plata-Mississippi Partners mission program, will be a speaker during the Mississippi Baptist Men's Rally, Aug. 19, at Parkway Church, Jackson.

Alexander will speak from Argentina on a ham radio set up through the Disaster Relief ham radio equipment.

Also on hand during the evening program, which begins with a banquet at 5:30 p.m., and continues with an evening service at 7, will be representatives of the Medical-Dental Fellowship, the Baptist Hams Fellowship, and the Disaster Relief Ministry. The disaster relief van will be set up for display at Parkway.

This annual meeting for Baptist Men from around the state, kicks off with a banquet featuring songwriter, conservationist Paul Ott Carruth. Tickets for the banquet are \$5 per person and may

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Village play pavilion

A group of men from Bolivar Association teamed with Village boys and alumni funding to build a play pavilion at the Baptist Children's Village's India Nunnery Campus. The 20 x 30 foot pavilion was paid for by the Village Alumni Association. Pictured are William Burkett of the Village and D. A. "Doc" Brown, a member of Skene Baptist Church, who are making markings for a picnic table. In background from left are Robert Haney, pastor of Interstate Baptist Church, Karl

McGraw, Village properties director, and Andy Parker of the Village. Other volunteers not pictured are Gary Johnson, pastor of Skene church; and Wayne Gullett, pastor, Morrison Chapel; and Odis Henderson, Bolivar director of missions. Alumni committee members are Dot Bowie Downing, Hilda Harper Boettler, John Saucier, Doris Fanning Grubbs, Judy Turner, and Karl McGraw. (Tim Nicholas photo)

HMB summer missionaries include Mississippi students

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed a record number of summer missionaries in 1983, reported Bill Lee, assistant director of the HMB's special mission ministries department.

Lee said 1,542 college and seminary students began 10 weeks of mission service in June, up 100 from the 1982 total of 1,442. The summer missionaries are serving in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and four western provinces of Canada.

Lee attributed the record appointments to increases in Baptist Student Union-sponsored positions. BSU groups picked up the tab on 436 out-of-state appointments and 276 in-state appointments, said Lee. BSU groups throughout the country raised more than \$1 million to send fellow students to both home and foreign missions fields.

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union sent out 64 students and have raised over \$64,000 so far for their support.

BSU efforts, said Lee, saved the HMB at least \$500,000 in transporta-

tion costs alone for summer missionaries.

Texas accounted for the greatest number of assigned missionaries with 196 summer workers. California and New York received the largest number of summer workers with 115 each. Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., led the list of the top 100 colleges/universities sending summer missionaries with 37.

Lee said 1983 summer missions appointments included 21 ordained ministers and 29 seminary students. He noted 164 of the 1983 assigned missionaries also served in 1982.

"The figures point out the vitality and health of our student missions and volunteer missions programs," said Lee, noting increases in the number of requests for volunteers from the field and in the number of student applicants.

Summer missions appointments "benefit students in terms of their future involvement in missions, either as a missionary, a church staffer, or a layperson," Lee said. "It also provides missions education as these students

bring back first-hand reports to their home and college churches and to their BSUs.

"In fact, the success of the program can really be attributed to the recruiting efforts of summer missionaries among their fellow students," said Lee.

Mississippi college students, their hometowns, and states where serving as Home Mission Board student summer missionaries include (by school):

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE: Harold R. Morton, Rienzi, Michigan; Winnie J. Walmsley, Biggers, Ark., Iowa.

CLARKE COLLEGE: Ann H. Adkins, Union, New York; Barbara J. Odom, Millry, Ala., Ohio.

COAHOMA JUNIOR COLLEGE: David B. Cusic, Gary, Ind., Illinois; Willie E. Dillard, Greenville, Alabama.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY: Sherrie L. Nichols, Greenville, Georgia.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE: Cynthia

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WIN School training

Making "divine appointments"

By Tim Nicholas

One man who had been a member of First Church, Lyman for 20 years, signed up for the church's first WIN (Witness Involvement Now) School last year.

He attended quietly the first four evenings of the course which is a strategy for equipping people for lifestyle evangelism. Then Thursday, when participants were to get some practical witnessing experience, the man sat in his car crying.

The man told pastor Delton Beall that he had never really given his life over to Christ and made a profession

Moonies are going after the uncommitted—"evangelistically"—but are Baptists? See editorial Page 2.

of faith that evening. He announced his decision to the church that Sunday, and shortly after, led his sister to the Lord only two weeks before she died.

One shy member of First, Lyman, went home from a class to practice reading the witnessing help booklet, "Steps to Peace with God." As she read it to her sister, the sister began to weep and the girl led her to the Lord that evening at home. The next night the WIN School class heard the testimony of a girl who had timidly shared the plan of salvation with her sister and received results on the spot.

"This helps with motivation," says Pastor Beall, who has led the church into three WIN Schools in the past two years. He notes that though four out of five faith-sharing visits result in being turned down or turned away, that fifth visit will have some measure of success. "Successful witnessing is simply sharing Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit," says Beall.

The WIN Schools at First, Lyman, have consisted of a Sunday evening opening session of an hour and a half, then the next three nights of two hours of class, then Thursday evening of visitation—on the job training. About 100 of the 500 resident members of the church have attended one of three WIN Schools there. Baptisms reached 77 last year.

"It's not just a soul winning school," says Beall, quoting from the materials. "It teaches a person how to have a life worth sharing and how to share a life worth living." He adds that it tends to make people effective, enthusiastic, and confident in sharing their faith.

Jenny Peterman, an eighth grade math teacher, has helped out in all three schools. She attended the first one, but told herself she wasn't going on the Thursday visitation. "The Holy Spirit sorta dared me to go," she says. So, she went. That evening, either people weren't home or they responded with "Nah, that's not for me," she says. Then she and the two other women with her approached a darkened house, praying in the car for a response. They got out and discovered two men working on a car out front. "They invited us in the house where there was better light—both were saved that night," she says. Similar stories abound, always with an invitation to those saved—black or white—to fellowship with First, Lyman.

Larry Strohm rededicated his life to Christ after a visit from Jenny Peterman. He is junior high football coach and physical education teacher at the same school where she works. Now, he has witnessed to his kids at school—even at the washateria he'll ask people if they know Jesus.

Deacon Paul Workman says he'd prayed for the Lord to send the church someone "gung ho" on evangelism and he believes that has happened with Delton Beall. Beall and Workman teamed up for interesting results recently. Workman confronted a young woman at a department store about her relationship to God. She started coming to church with her boyfriend and she later asked Beall to marry them at the Lyman church. In the ceremony, Beall mentioned that the marriage was the second most important decision of their lives.

Afterwards, the girl's sister drew Beall aside asking what the most important decision was. "I said accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior," says Beall. "Her sister and brother-in-law made professions of faith there," he adds.

Shortly, Beall and Workman, who are both certified to teach Continuing Witnessing Training, will begin that program at First, Lyman. He says a major part of witness training is in finding out if you are a Christian yourself, then the receiving of a cleansing from God before going out to witness.

"If we are willing witnesses, there are searching souls everywhere—God will lead you to an encounter," says Beall, "a divine appointment."

Editorials

by Don McGregor

Prayer in the classroom

President Reagan has revised his proposed amendment on voluntary prayer in the public schools, much to the delight of Jerry Falwell and others; but he still has left out a very important aspect of prayer being voluntary. The state, or the school administration, as the case may be, still would be able to tell the student he had to pray at a certain time or absent himself from the area.

Right off, it is difficult to understand why it is that there is such attention to be given to the thought that there should be prayer in the public school classroom. Those who want to pray are going to do it anyway, in the classroom or elsewhere; and those who don't want to are going to be among those who leave the area.

The word is that those who wouldn't want to pray would be able to leave so that they would not suffer the embarrassment of being different; but if the truth were known in advance, those who would leave might outnumber those who would stay. The ones who were praying might be the "different" ones.

And if the prayers were to be used as

an evangelistic witness to those who wouldn't feel disposed to pray, then the impact would be lost; for the non-prayers would not be there. Otherwise, those who would pray probably would take care of that at home before they left for school.

Initially, the President's proposed amendment read as follows: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions."

"No person shall be required by the United States or by any state to participate in prayer."

Early in his effort to get this amendment considered, the President was asked how the school children would know how to pray. His reply was that someone would have to write the prayers for them. That raised such a cry that he changed his plan and proposed the following addition: "Nor shall the United States or any state compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."

This makes the whole thing look like a political ploy. He proposed one thing; and when he found it wouldn't

work, rather than dropping it, he turned it around to make it into something completely different.

The possibility of misunderstandings demands the necessity of tacking on this and that to make it understandable and acceptable to all. Actually, the President's first sentence should be the heart of the matter and all that is necessary: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions." But there is nothing in the Constitution now that prohibits such prayer. In fact, the Constitution encourages such prayer, for it guarantees the right of assembly and says the government cannot in any way address itself to religious considerations. Therefore, religious assemblies are just as lawful as any other kind as long as they are not government sponsored.

The Supreme Court didn't outlaw prayer in public schools in its 1962 decision. It simply said that the state could not force the issue or compose the prayers. A lot of district courts have misinterpreted that ruling, but that is not the fault of the Constitution.

If the President's amendment is passed, there will be a lot of administration-established prayer meetings even though the prayers would not be written by the teachers. That is not voluntary.

A voluntary prayer meeting is when one student or a group of students spreads the word that there is going to be a prayer session during a break in school activity, and students and teachers can attend or not attend as they see fit.

The Constitution guarantees that right. Let's leave it alone.

Reagan's proposed amendment, along with one by Sen. Orrin Hatch, has been sent to the Senate for consideration. Hatch's would allow for a time of silence for public school students to take advantage of in any way they would choose, including prayer. It also would establish the right of public school students to have religious programs and prayer sessions in school facilities if other groups do so.

If we must have a constitutional amendment, Hatch's is much more palatable.

Do the Moonies have a field?

The Moonies, the adherents of the Unification Church, have moved into Jackson in force; and the chances are that they will find plenty of prospects. The fields are harvest white just among the people we have missed.

Those missed are the the only ones they are interested in, the Moonies say. But there are thousands of them.

It's too late to say let's get busy and enlist these people or the Moonies will come in. The Moonies are already in Jackson, and they are counting on find-

ing plenty of converts. The reason they are counting on converts is that they know their adherents will be at work.

That we should have been hard at work ourselves goes without saying. But if indeed we haven't been as diligent as we should have been, it doesn't necessarily follow that we can't change the circumstances.

The reason the Moonies get converts is that they go after them. They know they are not going to get every prospect they call on. They also know they are

going to get a good share because they have an attractive offer.

What is their offer? It is a call to commitment. People hear it and respond.

What is it that we have to offer? Can we match their commitment?

If we can't, we'd better take down our sign, as we used to say in earlier days: But we can, and we need to be out in the "real" world doing it.

We need to challenge people in order to lead them into the Kingdom of

God—not just to keep them out of the Moonies.

Many Baptist churches in Mississippi, of course, are deeply involved in providing training for witnessing and in active witnessing in their communities. Their efforts should be an inspiration for all of us. An example of such a church is First Baptist Church, Lyman. A story about that church's involvement in witnessing is on Page 1 of this issue.

Guest opinion . . .

Church growth—where are we going?

By Guy Henderson

Church growth statistician Peter Wagner estimates that 55,000 persons become Christians every day and 1,400 Christian churches are planted every week around the world. However, more than 2.7 billion still know nothing or very little about the gospel, and over 100 million of them are in America. Southern Baptist churches in the USA baptize more than 1,000 each day, but still we are losing ground to the population growth of our nation.

What is Church Growth? In Gen. 15:5-6 God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. In Gen. 28:14, Jacob receives a similar promise. Paul has a lot to say about this in Rom. 4:13-25 and Gal. 3:6-9, applying the promise of Genesis to the church and declaring that the

gospel was preached to Abraham. God seems to be highly interested in growth and numbers.

Ron Lewis and Charles Chaney, authors of *Design for Church Growth*, observe six traits in Paul's life essential to a winning habit. (1) He had one ambition—to know Christ, (2) he had a God-given dream, (3) he had a life long strategy, (4) he had boundless dedication, (5) he had unquenchable desire, and (6) he had total confidence that he would be successful in what God had sent him to do.

With this recognition, where is Church Growth going today? Even in the Bible belt we have an estimated 60 percent of the population which chooses not to attend church. Only a

few churches are growing. Many have slipped into a "hold the fort" mentality or a maintenance syndrome. Church growth is the pressing need of Christianity today. Is this alarming trend being felt in the local church? Check your growth rate for the past 10 years. Can anything be done?

Donald McGowan believes the church today stands poised on a new age of explosive growth. This is contingent, of course, on our willingness to commit ourselves to evangelism and biblical principles of Church growth. This concern is evident in a number of our churches as they take a new look at their Sunday School and evangelistic efforts.

In August there will be four Church Growth Conferences conducted jointly

by the Sunday School and Evangelism departments in strategic areas of Mississippi. Church growth revivals, using a definite procedure of preparation, are scheduled in a few churches this coming year. The major emphasis of the 1984 Evangelism/Bible Conference is "Church Growth, A Great Challenge for Mississippi"; and in September 1984 a church growth seminar will be held in Jackson.

It has long been noted that the natural outflow of the overflow of the inflow of the Christ life within a church body is evangelism. Our outreach and concern for others is an accurate thermometer of our spiritual growth.

Guy Henderson is director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Letters to the Editor

A van for Vance

Editor:

The deacons of Star Baptist Church are involved in a project that many readers of the *Baptist Record* will be interested in. They are going to buy and present to Rev. Vance Dyess a van equipped for the handicapped.

As many of your readers know, Bro. Dyess has been fighting multiple sclerosis for about two years. At this time, he is confined to a wheelchair. The handicapped equipped van will allow him ease of movement in traveling.

There are many of Bro. Dyess' friends who might want to know of this effort. Those who would like further information might call R. C. Rice, chairman of deacons, or drop a note in the mail to Star Baptist Church, Star, Miss.

Your prayers for this project will be greatly appreciated.

Jimmy Harrington, pastor
Star Baptist Church

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Missionaries find relative

Editor:

I just wanted to write and share a wonderful story with you.

I attend Liberty Baptist Church in Smith County and get your paper every week.

Thirty-one years ago my husband's brother was in the Navy stationed in Japan. He met and fell in love with a girl over there; but because of red tape, our government would not permit her to come to America. They married by Japanese law and had a son who will be 30 years old in August. We have never seen him except pictures. His father stayed in contact with them for several years; then the letters started coming back, and we lost all contact.

My brother-in-law died 13 years ago in a house fire, so we didn't think we would ever hear from his son. The family has talked about how we could find him; so last November, after we had a Mission Bible Study, the thought came to me, why not write to the Southern Baptist mission office in Japan. I wrote and told them our story. Mr. Max Love, treasurer in the office in Tokyo wrote back and said they had checked the last address we had and no one knew anything about his family.

But Saturday, June 18, I received a letter from Mark, my husband's nephew. The Baptist Mission had located him. God answered our prayers. He was living in Tokyo. God had to have had a hand in it for Mark to be found in a city as large as Tokyo.

I got so excited when I saw the letter was from Mark that I couldn't read it till I got his grandfather, uncle, and aunts all together so we could share it all at the same time. My brother-in-law retired from the Navy and was staying with his sister at the time of his death. It was his sister's house. Everything burned except her family Bible that had the letters from Mark's mother.

We hope someday that Mark can come to America to meet his father's family.

I just wanted to share our story because we are so happy and let people

know what wonderful people our missionaries and fellow Christians are.

Ruth Delk

Taylorsville, Miss.

Sixty-plus club

The Sixty-Plus Club of Soso was organized January 13, 1980, by Dr. Jim Beck, pastor, a few months after he was called to pastor the church.

Many accomplishments have been met that were planned since organized, with monthly meetings at the church in the fellowship hall, enjoying covered dish luncheons, good planned programs with wonderful fellowship.

Dr. Beck's great interest in the elderly group has created much interest in the church. He has planned and made many trips for the group; some to mention, points of interest in Jackson, Miss.; New Orleans, La.; Bures, La.; Natchez, Miss. for the annual pilgrimage; Gatlinburg, Tenn.; Bellinghath Gardens at Mobile, Ala.; the pottery factory in Marshall, Texas; and to Hodges Gardens in La.; and other places such as eating out in famous restaurants.

Since Dr. Beck organized the Sixty-Plus Club in Soso First Baptist Church, many churches have done so in Jones County.

He drives the church bus himself, and makes himself one of the group, enjoying everything that's done.

Always there is a prayer for guidance and protection on bus before the journey begins and a prayer of thanksgiving on bus upon arrival at each destination.

The Sixty-Plus Club is most grateful for this wonderful man of God in his interest to the elderly and the great work he is doing in the church.

Mrs. Blanche Welborn
Soso, Miss.

A revival report

Editor:

"If your spirit didn't catch on fire, then your word is wet" were the words of a testimony spoken at the final service of the revival at East Louisville Church. Spirits caught on fire.

Several months ago the deacons at

East Louisville decided to attempt something they had never tried or even heard of—a deacon-preached revival in their church. Then began prayer after prayer. Dates were set and "preachers" were chosen . . . a different one for each service, preaching at night and teaching at noon. Of the 10 men in the "active" body of deacons only one has done much lay preaching. Some folks were skeptical, but more chose to walk in faith and prayer.

The people at East Louisville have seen what the power of God can do when men surrender their wills to that of God. Men who shake before a crowd stood in complete ease; words flowed from men who find it difficult to speak to a large gathering. We listened to men who are a part of us, who know our needs and failings tell us what God was telling them. We felt the power of God as people prayed at the altar during each service and as they presented themselves there for prayer at the close of each service. We saw God's power when at the urging of no person, people put their arms around each other and said, "I love you." And we saw His power as each of those 10 deacons, our minister of music, and our pastor stood before the church and pledged to ask "What would Jesus do?" before each act, word, or decision.

In the past year East Louisville has worked through problems and turmoil. We have come from a board of deacons who only met to make decisions to a body of deacons who pray and serve. We are becoming a group of people who love each other and care about each other's needs. We are learning to reach out. We have not arrived, but we know what the power of God can do.

David H. Bookout
Pastor
East Louisville Baptist Church
Louisville

Thanks from Montana

Editor:

We just wanted to thank you for your gifts and your prayers. Our church is



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Colorado: "Celebrate life"

July 3: No vacancy. No vacancy. No . . . Then finally "one room left" at Holiday Inn, Manitou Springs. July 4: As No. 194 on stand-by for the cog train to Pike's Peak, we gave up. What's more American than hot dogs and watermelon? W.D., Luann, and I had a front table for the July Jamboree in Briarhurst Garden, to hear the Country Critters and see the High Country Cloggers. In late afternoon, little flags flew from poolside tables for the motel's barbecue. Near midnight, fireworks outlined mountains beyond Colorado Springs.

July 1: On one side of me sat a journalist from Wyoming, and on the other, one from Colorado. As I was representing the Baptist Record, I amused myself by thinking, "Zion sits by hills surrounded." This was the Woman of Achievement banquet, during the national press women's convention at Vail. Eddi Parker of Ohio was introducing Jeannine Fulmer of Jackson (director of public information, Mississippi ETV) as our state's Woman of Achievement. And then I recognized Joy South Morrison, Idaho's WOA (editor of Lifestyle section, Idaho State Journal). Though I'd met her only twice—once with her head in a shampoo sink at the beauty shop, I remembered her because she was so friendly and easy-to-talk-to.

July 2—In the Wordsmith's Workshop, Alden Wood told so many jokes and read so many typos and other crazy errors from newspapers across the country that he kept us laughing for an hour. For instance: "English prof: There are two words I detest. One is swell and the other is lousy. Student: Okay, professor. Tell us what they are."

Besides that, he gave us pointers on "how to make your words sing." And he directed a spelling bee. "Don't—please don't—" he begged, "write, like one reporter did, about the 'little viles of cocaine.'" Wood, (the wordsmith) writes "The Typochondriac," a monthly column on word usage, for the *Ragan Report*.

Faces around my table for the Saturday night banquet represented Georgia, Texas, Wisconsin, and Oregon. Mary Lou Webb of Meadville, Miss., was installed as second vice president of the National Federation of Press Women. (And Rosemary Carroll as third v-p. I mention her because she is manager of public information, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Mass., and my Washburn ancestors came from that area.) The menu (Melba North of Clinton tells me I'm always writing about something to eat!): Pineapple wedges with strawberries, tossed green salad with peppercorn dressing, roasted prime rib au jus, zucchini Italian, artichoke with pearl onions in cream sauce, and ice cream with Bing cherries flambe.

Lo! the star of the evening came leaping in, dressed in Russian costume and tossing hunks of bread left and

right. Dean Conger, assistant director of photography for National Geographic, made 26 trips to Russia in 16 years; we saw through his eight: projector presentation the diversity of the people and geography of the Soviet Union. (To do a book, *Journey Across Russia*, he and the writer, Bart McDowell, had to follow predetermined itineraries, accompanied by a Soviet interpreter-guide.) Conger did not go into politics, but presented a magnificent montage of Russian faces.

But Don Bluth was my favorite (Sat. a.m.) among the program personalities. He was not billed as a devotional speaker, but he left a good taste in my mouth and an upswing of hope in my heart. Slight of stature, he has a young-looking face, through his hair is greying and beginning to recede. His eyes mirror a compassionate nature; his black moustache offsets a charming smile. A former animator for Disney, he now has his own studio for producing the animated classic.

Many say, "Push. Drive. Get that raise. Money is the goal." But Bluth said, "Money is not the goal. To celebrate life—that is the goal." He said that people ask why a grown man would draw cartoons, and explained, "Animation is art. 'Animated' means being alive, and I love being alive, loving and touching people." Technology will never replace a human being. I enjoy, as all of us can, the beautiful things that God has created and put here for us to enjoy. A poet expresses feelings through words; I express feelings through the medium of the animated cartoon.

"The electronic age is here. The bomb is here. But humanity is still important. That's what I want to get across. Happiness is within you. You are unique. Use your writing, or other talent, for good, to make the world better."

"They may keep making bombs. They may even blow up the earth. But this is now. And now you can make things better. Celebrate life!"

Re: Chaplains

For last week's Baptist Record I wrote a feature story about the need for military chaplains. John McBride, director of the Department of Cooperative Missions, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has shared with me that next year his department will be having a skills conference at Garaywa for chaplains, Sept. 14-15. The department supports a network of chaplains in Mississippi, called the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Fellowship. There are 85 chaplains in the network, which includes military, industrial, hospital, and institutional chaplains. Each year they have a retreat at Gulfshore. Also they have a banquet at state Baptist convention time in November. The president of this group is Ed Dowdy, chaplain, VA Hospital, Biloxi.

growing by leaps and bounds. God is truly blessing us.

Elisa L. Taylor, Church Clerk
Harlowton Baptist Church
Box 746
Harlowton, Mont. 59036

A mission group from Society Hill Church, Jeff Davis County, worked with Harlowton Church recently.—Editor

For fellowship, not fracture

Editor:

The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference developed in an era when the pastor was our only ordained clergy. To cope with a new era our religious leadership has developed specialized forms, such as musician, evangelist, educator, chaplain, etc. Likewise, national organizations have developed for the specialized groups. Unfortunately, no integrating fellowship has been developed nationwide.

Perhaps we need to correct this fragmentation. For example, a ministers' fellowship could meet on Monday afternoon and evening each year just

before the Southern Baptist Convention begins on Tuesday morning. The several specialized ministry groups could continue their present meetings on Sunday afternoon and evening and Monday morning. To insure a program appealing to all forms of ordained ministry and integrative of our mutual concerns, the fellowship could be managed by a board of 12 with representation something like this: six pastors, an evangelist, a musician, a chaplain, an educator, a denominational employee, and a retiree. These elders could be elected on three-year terms on a rotating basis. Attention would also need to be given to geographical distribution.

Those who consider the pastorate to be the only legitimate form of ministry might oppose such a proposal. Nevertheless, the witness of Southern Baptists is ill served by fragmented leadership. An annual meeting for all ministers on a nation-wide basis could do much to unify the leadership of our denomination.

Russell Bennett
Louisville, Kentucky

AMEN stands for love imperative

(Continued from Page 1)
points in the province.
Klink is at this time president of the convention of Argentine Baptists. His resourcefulness is documented through the ministry he has built in the city of Neuquen and throughout the province.

The province of Neuquen is bound by the Andes Mountains on the west and is in the shape of a triangle with the Colorado River forming the top boundary and the Limay River forming the bottom. The Neuquen River runs down the East side and blunts the point of the triangle. The ministry carried on by the church outside the walls of the church is handled by an organization called A.M.E.N. The Spanish language uses amen as we do as a plea to the Lord to heed our prayer. Also the word, amen, in Spanish is the imperative form of love. In Neuquen, however, the church has used the letters to form an acronym for Asociacion Mutualista Evangelica Neuquena, or the Mutual Evangelistic Association of Neuquen.

A large part of the ministry of the church in the community is the school. It is a part of AMEN.

The plan is for the school to move to seven grades eventually. The director of the school is Mrs. Roberto Bissoni. The school meets in the church facilities. Ninety-one percent of the families sending their children to the kindergarten are Catholic, Klink noted. The school visitation program puts the church in touch with 600 families which are not believer families, he added.

Roberto Bissoni, a medical doctor, is director of the health department of the church, and this is a part of AMEN. Mr. and Mrs. Bissoni are members of the church, and he gave up a thriving medical career to take over the medical work of the church. He was the head of intensive care work for the government for all of Neuquen Province. When he resigned to go to work for the church, Klink told him there was a possibility that the church could not pay him anything. "That is the Lord's problem," said Bissoni.

AMEN has a board of directors made up of 14 people. The structure includes an administrative department, health department, and education department. The administrative department has three people in it. The health department has the director and associate director as well as three doctors, three nurses, a dentist, a speech therapist, and five paramedics. In addition to the general director in the education department there are 12 in the kindergarten area and six in the primary school area. All

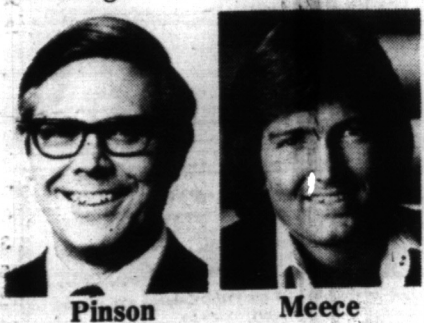
Junior Miss coming to Youth Night

Carla Haag, Mississippi's Junior Miss; Singer David Meece; and William Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will be featured during Youth Night, 1983.

Youth Night will take place Friday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the annual event will include participation by hundreds of Mississippi Baptist young people. Student participation includes a handbell choir, instrumental band, and singing choir, all recruited from Baptist churches across the state. Instrumentalists will be high school students Mera Hall of Jackson, and Mark Snow of Florence.

Miss Haag will give her Christian testimony.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night is open to the public. There is no admission charge.



Pinson



Meece

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Cooperative Program Receipts

Month	1982	% of Total	1983	% of Total	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
January	\$ 1,076,552	7.9	\$ 1,217,037	8.1	\$ 140,485	13.0
February	1,196,121	8.7	1,335,282	8.9	139,161	11.6
March	1,146,091	8.4	1,284,572	8.5	138,481	12.1
April	1,145,609	8.4	1,277,838	8.5	132,229	11.5
May	913,153	6.7	961,739	6.3	48,586	5.3
June	1,287,260	9.4	1,508,186	10.0	220,926	17.2
July	1,103,737	8.1	1,038,580	6.9	(65,157)	(5.9)
TOTAL	\$ 7,868,323	57.6	\$ 8,623,234	57.2	\$ 754,911	9.6
Budget for 7 Months			\$ 8,791,417			
OVER (UNDER)			\$ (168,183)			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$13,676,656		\$15,071,000		\$1,394,344	10.2

of the AMEN personnel are members of the church.

The AMEN hospital is small at this point, but the church has purchased a hilltop location overlooking the city on which to build a new and larger hospital. The ambulance that serves the church's hospital was a gift from a man in Texas and is the best equipped emergency vehicle in the province.

Much of the medical facilities were gifts of Texas donors. Klink worked out much of the transaction on his way home from the Baptist World Congress in Toronto in 1980. An even larger amount of medical material had been given by the Texas interests to another nonprofit organization in Argentina, which had paid the transportation costs to Argentina. Shortly thereafter that organization ceased to function, and all of the material was given free of charge to AMEN. Klink said that all of the medical material the church had received without cost amounted to about \$600,000 in value.

The medical work ministers mostly to those who are not church members, so it has its evangelistic results. It also provides a laboratory for training 30 young paramedics, in addition to the five mentioned earlier, who are members of the church.

"I have a dream," says Klink. He sees a Baptist university of Neuquen down the way as well as a Baptist hospital of Neuquen.

In addition to all of its work through AMEN, First Baptist Church of Neuquen has had eight missions. It still has four.

In the Mississippi-Rio de la Plata partnership arrangement Klink sees a partnership of physicians. He would like to see Mississippi physicians going to Neuquen for lectures, classes, and other such helpful enterprises. March to December is a good time for such visits to Argentina, he noted. He wondered if Argentine physicians could go to the United States. The Neuquen hospital is primarily interested in family medicine, Klink concluded.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Neuquen-Rio Negro Association, Kelly told of his dream of a prayer partnership between the nations. He explained his hope of prayer partnerships between associations, between churches, and between persons. This sort of a prayer relationship can change both nations, he said.

Klink said he hopes work can be started in all the cities in Argentina with a population of 10,000 and over. "It would take more missionaries," he said. He noted that a street in Cipolletti had been named for George Bowdler, a pioneer Southern Baptist missionary in the area. He had gone to Cipolletti when the town had only two to three thousand inhabitants. Now there are 40,000 residents.

Klink said he had a desire to see a center for training lay leaders put into operation, perhaps using lectures from the United States. The center might be connected with the International Seminary in Buenos Aires, he said.

The arrival of more and more missionaries should be the final result of the partnership with Mississippi, Klink declared.

June gifts set another record

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—June was the fourth consecutive record month for gifts to the national Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 36,000 local churches contributed \$7,698,787 in undesignated gifts to the worldwide mission and education programs of the SBC. That was more than \$575,000 (and 8.1 percent) above the previous best June (1982).

June marked the close of the third quarter in the SBC fiscal year. After nine months, total contributions are \$76,176,999—9.23 percent ahead of the third quarter totals last year.

The churches have also contributed \$79,543,427 in designated gifts to the 20 national SBC agencies, the vast majority of the money going to the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board.

If contributions the final quarter continue at the same rate as the first three quarters, the national Cooperative Program will receive almost \$101.6 million. The basic operating and capital needs budget is \$100 million and the challenge budget is \$106 million.



An international group examines the site that First Church, Neuquen, has purchased for a new hospital. Standing around the map are, left to right, Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Roberto Bissoni, director of AMEN's medical department; Rodolfo Inda, general director of the education department; and Nestor Emilio Trillo, president of the Board of Directors of AMEN. Standing in the background is Lorenzo Klink, pastor of First Church, Neuquen. Standing at right is Don Mines, SBC missionary to Argentina and coordinator for the Mississippi-Argentina partnership.



A young pastor at one of the mission sites of First Church, Neuquen, and his family welcome Mississippi visitors.



Speech therapist Maria Amelia Espinoza handles the controls of her speech therapy unit.

Siberian emigres . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Chmykhalovs and five members of the Vashchenko family to come to the United States, an effort which culminated when the Pentecostals arrived in Vienna, Austria, on July 18 from Moscow.

Urshan said several persons from St. Louis had volunteered to donate land for the family, but he said the offers had been temporarily shelved. "I'm going to let them decide what they want to do," he said. "We don't want to exploit these people. They have struggled for so long to come to a free nation where they can worship as they enjoy."

They come to a community that has had a sizable Russian emigrant population since the Soviet Union began letting Jews emigrate a decade ago. About 175 Russian Jews have settled in the DeBaliere rehabilitation project, a renovated housing area in what had been one of the city's worst ghettos.

Off the Record

With the metric system of weights and measures in effect, we will be speaking in terms of meters, millimeters, grams, kilograms, liters, etc., instead of pounds and miles and pints. This will mean, of course, that many of our old sayings and proverbs will have to be brought up to date. Examples:

"Give a man 2.54 centimeters and he'll take 1.609 kilometers."

"28.350 grams of prevention is worth 453.592 grams of cure."

"Peter Piper picked 8,810 liters of pickled peppers . . ."

"A miss is as good as 1.609 kilometers."

"Spare the 5,0292 meters and spoil the child."

"A journey of 1,609 kilometers begins with a single step."

"Put your best 0.3048 meter forward."

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Thursday, August 4, 1983

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

WMU leader training set for day, night schedules

A series of Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Training Camps are scheduled in three cities, with a choice of six days and day or night meetings.

This training is designed for newly-elected church WMU leaders and is offered for officers of WMU, Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, plus directors and leaders of Acteens, Girls in Action, and Mission Friends.

The schedule is Aug. 15: Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; and 7-9 p.m.;

Aug. 16: Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; and 7-9 p.m.;

Aug. 17: Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Aug. 18: West Laurel Church, Laurel, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; and 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 22: North Oxford Church, Oxford, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 23: North Oxford Church, Oxford, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be separate sessions for newly-elected and for more experienced WMU directors; for enlistment workers, and to help in learning to use the WMU magazines, plus a number of special interest conferences.

A resource center for home mission and foreign mission book studies for 1983-84 will be set up in each locale and a book store will be available at Camp Garaywa.

Urban evangelism meet draws secular interest

NITEROI, Brazil (BP)—Some 440 Baptist leaders from 20 countries compared notes on urban evangelism June 26-July 3 in Niteroi, Brazil, and went home with a bundle of practical ideas.

The World Baptist Congress on Urban Evangelism, sponsored by Brazilian Baptists, had participants joining several thousand Brazilians each evening for inspirational messages with afternoon sessions focusing on intensive discussion of 12 models for action.

Recorded on paper and videocassette for distribution to Baptist conventions worldwide, the models outline proven evangelistic methods in philosophy and practice. They include

tactics for reaching the nominally religious, confronting secular ideologies, church planting, student evangelism, social ministry and motivating laymen.

The evangelism congress made an immediate impact on two urban areas—Niteroi and nearby Rio de Janeiro. Federal employees were allowed leave time to attend the sessions through the efforts of a Baptist congressman.

The meeting drew considerable attention from Brazil's largest newspapers, and a session on urban social needs reportedly sparked an hour-long discussion in the federal congress in Brasilia.

Chinese study materials are urgently needed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists must provide culturally relevant Bible study materials if Chinese-American churches are going to minister effectively to an expected influx of Chinese people, according to Chinese consultant Peter Kung.

Chinese Bible study materials presently are available only from Hong Kong publishers, Kung said, but the Baptist Sunday School Board has made a commitment to begin providing Bible study materials in Chinese, possibly beginning next year on a very limited basis.

Kung, consultant in the language missions unit at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said Chinese Southern Baptist churches need materials to successfully share the gospel with Chinese people and then train them to witness.

In the next few years, particularly toward the end of the century, the Chinese population in the U.S. is expected to jump from one million to more than five million. One of the principal factors in the higher immi-

gration is what is referred to by the Chinese as the "1997 Phobia." That is the year mainland China will reclaim Hong Kong.

Chinese will be the third priority foreign language in which the Sunday School Board has made a commitment to provide materials because of special needs. Materials already are published in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean. There are 140 Chinese Southern Baptist churches.

HMB summer missionaries

(Continued from Page 1)

J. Akin, Scottsboro, Ala.; New York; James K. and Mary C. Barnett, Clinton, Kans.-Neb.; Rhonda J. Birch, Kentwood, La.; Alaska; Jana L. Newton, Tucker, Ga., Virginia.

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST JUNIOR COLLEGE (PERK): Camilla N. Holzer, Perkinston, New York; William L. Sumrall, Gretna, La., Iowa.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY: Mary L. Davis, Jackson, New York;

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI JUNIOR COLLEGE: Derinda A. Lucien, Corinth, Penn.-South Jersey; Melanie Morton, Rienzi, Michigan.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI: David H. Blackmarr, Oxford, Florida. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI: Johnathon L. Riley, Ethel, Iowa.

UTICA JUNIOR COLLEGE: Aaron Joiner, Jackson, Louisiana; Tara Y. Rhodes, Jackson, Missouri; Eloise M. Turner, Jackson, Kentucky.

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE: Belinda G. Giles, Hattiesburg, Virginia. WOOD JUNIOR COLLEGE: Patricia L. Cummings, Mantee, Illinois.

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BR3

Paris choir enlists boy from H'burg

Fourteen-year-old Bart Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob H. Jones of 308 North 21st Avenue, Hattiesburg, has been named a guest-artist-in-residence with the Paris Boys Choir of Paris, France, and with boys choirs in Belgium and Germany, under a program sponsored by the American Boy Choir Federation. He is the first boy from Mississippi ever to have been invited to participate.

Bart is the son of Bob H. Jones, minister of music at Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg. He is a member of the Junior High Choir.

The invitation was extended to Bart in the basis of his association with the University of Southern Mississippi Opera Theater's production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors," which was directed by Karl Brock. According to Rodolfo Torres, president of the Federation, Bart was recommended because of his singing ability and because of his "ambassadorial qualities."

Young Jones will fly on August 3 to the John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, to join a group of 18 boys selected from the entire U.S.A. and Canada by the Paris Boys Choir. The American boys will fly to Brussels,

Belgium, for a day of rehearsals in preparation for concert appearances in various cities of Europe.

In France, the boys will be guests in the homes of Paris Boys Choir singers, and will attend school with the Paris boys. They will sing the Sunday service in the American Church of Paris. They will also sing in the Notre Dame Cathedral and other churches and synagogues in Paris.

In Belgium, the boys will be guests in the homes of "Hit Parade des Enfants," a group of Belgian boy singers who perform popular music for television.

In Cologne, Germany, the boys will be guests in the homes of boys and girls of the Ehrenfelder Kinderchor. They will sing in the Cologne Cathedral, in a home for the aged, and in various other German institutions.

While in Europe, the boys will receive voice coaching by some of the world's leading boy-voice coaches and choral directors. They will also be taught history and geography while travelling through historic areas. The group will return to the U.S. on August 18.



Bart Jones, member of Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, and son of its music minister, accepts keys to Hattiesburg from the mayor, Bobby Chain, who is a member of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg. Bart will give the keys to city officials in Paris, Brussels, and Cologne. (American photo by Robert Miller).

Association officers train

The simultaneous Associational Officers Training Conferences will take place on Saturday, Aug. 27 at First Baptist Churches of Carthage, Columbia, and Oxford.

Each meeting is set to begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m., followed by a complimentary meal. These Saturday meetings are set up to allow more lay people to attend the nearest location.

Conferences will be offered for the following associational workers: directors of missions; moderators; clerks; Sunday School, Church Training, Church Music, Brotherhood, and Woman's Missionary Union directors; evangelism, missions, stewardship, and Christian action committee members; pastoral ministries leaders, and family ministries directors.

These training sessions are sponsored by the program director's office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Chester Vaughn is program director.

Pray for MKs

Aug. 13—Noemi Gonzalez, Gulf Coast, Jeff Davis Junior College
Aug. 23—Elizabeth F. Raley, Taiwan, Mississippi College



Gulfshore summer staff

This is the 1983 summer staff of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. These young people represent 16 college campuses from across Mississippi and they assisted in helping to provide the services necessary for the operation of Mississippi Baptists' conference facility. Summer attendance will be approximately 6,500 persons for the 24 conferences sponsored by the various programs of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Front Row: Melody Young, Ellisville; Michele Holt, Long Beach; Juli Allen, Knoxville, Tenn.; Karen Collier, Plantersville; Jennifer West, Gulfport; Patsy Ball, Pontotoc; Sheila Smith, Columbus; Beverly Brown, Summit; Jennifer Denson, Jackson; Pam Lichtenberg, Long Beach; Gwenda Ezell, Greenville. Second Row: James Hargrave, Louisville, Ky.; Sharon Hargrave, Louisville, Ky.; Rhonda Alderman, Jackson; Lucia Atterberry, Long Beach; Melanie Hemphill, Louisville; Joanna Dudley,

Scooba; Jamie Rasberry, Tupelo; Vicki Counce, Corinth; Pam Pybas, Madison; Lisa Young, Louisville; Suzanne Lazarus, Meadville; Judy Bracken, Meridian; Heather Watson, Moorhead; Phillip Swindall, Brookhaven. Third Row: Mark Collins, Gloster; Dana Denson, Jackson; Ryan Ginn, Jackson; Max Collum, Jackson; Kenny Crawford, Gulfport; Calvin Couch, Meridian; Greg Broom, Pascagoula; Keith Hayes, Columbus; David Nowell, Tunica; Norman Rowe, Pass Christian; Johnny Murphy, Meridian; James McNair, Bay Springs; Jamie Conner, Smithdale. Fourth Row: Eddie Keyser, Calhoun City; Jim Jagers, Okolona; Paul Floyd, Holly Springs; Jimmy Cordell, Glen Alan; Steve Walker, Yazoo City; Frank Simmons, Manager, Long Beach. Not pictured: Edie Thompson, Pass Christian; Steve Watson Hughes, Morton.



Gilburths

Singles will look at "living...love"

"Living In His Love" will be the theme of the Singles Conference Sept. 9 and 10 to be sponsored by the Christian Action Commission. The conference will be held at First Church, Greenwood.

Ken and Ann Gilburth will be the featured speakers. The conference will begin at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 and conclude at 4 p.m. Sept. 10. It is open to Mississippi singles and especially targeted for those in the Delta and Northwest Mississippi.

"This singles conference is designed to reach the many single adults, unmarried and formerly married, who need the fellowship of other singles and the encouragement that comes from being a part of the church," said Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission. "The conference will emphasize the role of maturing in the Christian faith and growing as a responsible single in light of Christ's love and His work with singles through the church," he added.

The Gilburths are co-directors of the Shepherd's Staff, a religious counseling service in Jackson. They are members of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. "They will bring to this conference a biblically-based and challenging look at the role of the Christian single in society," Jones said.

There is no charge for the conference, but participants will be responsible for their lodging and meals. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 9. Additional information may be secured by writing the Christian Action Commission, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, or by calling (601) 968-3800, ext. 3929.



Wilkinson welcomed

Keith Wilkinson, elected in April as director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has arrived on the field and has begun work in Jackson. Wilkinson poses with Chester Vaughn, MBCB program director, in front of a welcome sign.

Growth conferences set

The August series of Evangelism/Church Growth Conferences will be Aug. 15 at First Church, Brookhaven; Aug. 16 at First Church, Hattiesburg; Aug. 22 at First Church, Batesville; and Aug. 23 at First Church, Tupelo. Each takes place 7-9 p.m. Earlier brochures indicated dates in error.

The meetings "will look at ways the church can grow through evangelism and the Sunday School," according to promotional materials. These meetings are jointly sponsored by the Evangelism and Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Rock Bluff Church, near Polkville: Aug. 8-12; each night at 7:30; Max Jones, pastor, Highland Church, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Jim Overby, White Oak Baptist Church, White Oak, guest music director; Tommy Miles, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest Church, Crystal Springs: Aug. 7-12; Everett Geis, First Church, Delhi, La., evangelist; Gene Rester, Clinton, singer; at 7:30 p.m.; Pat Bufkin, pastor.

Rocky Point (Leake): Aug. 7-12; Bill Wilkinson of Hendersonville, N.C., and Howard Aultman of Columbia will be the revival team; Craig Bane, music director; David Wilkinson, pastor.

Immanuel, Batesville: Aug. 7-11, 7:30 nightly; Eddie Prince, Oak Grove, evangelist; Pat Herron, song leader; Eugene Howell, pastor.

Roxie Baptist Church, Roxie: Aug. 7-12; Rick Mitchell, Bush, La., evangelist; Bobby Davis, Bude, music director; Joseph Knight, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Cedar Grove (Marion): Aug. 7-12; John E. Barnes, Jr., Hattiesburg, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, Hurricane Creek, music evangelist; Charles Anglin, pastor.

Robinhood Baptist Church (Rankin): Aug. 7-12; homecoming Aug. 7; revival beginning same day, with morning and afternoon, but no night service on Sunday; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Glenn Davis, pastor, Calvary, Newton, evangelist; Doug Warren, pastor, Andrews Chapel Church, directing music; J. L. Reeves, pastor.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Union: Aug. 7-12; lunch in the fellowship hall on Aug. 7; Ed Perrett, pastor of Faithview Church, Jackson, guest speaker; services at 7 p.m.; Jamie Meaders, music director; Steve Purvis, pastor.

Union Church Baptist Church (Jefferson County): Aug. 7-12; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bobby Thompson, evangelist; Dick Shotwell, song leader; Carol Shotwell, pianist; Glenn Mullins, pastor.

Longview (Pontotoc): Aug. 7-12; services at 7:30 p.m.; Clyde Pound, Grand Ridge Baptist Church, Grand Ridge, Fla., evangelist; Bob Watkins, pastor.

Harrisville Baptist Church (Simpson): Aug. 7-12; Sunday regular services; lunch following Sunday morning worship hour; Mon.-Thurs. 10:30 a.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; evangelist, Ellis Moore, pastor, Lincolnton, Ga.; music, Randy Hymel, minister of music, Harrisville; pastor, Gene Erwin.

Chester (Choctaw): Aug. 14-18; at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; fellowship meal on Sunday, and singing in the afternoon; Ronnie Estes, evangelist; Pam Bell, music director; Stan Ballard, pastor.

Jupiter Church, Braxton (Simpson): Aug. 7-12; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; nightly at 7:30; Joe Stovall, evangelist; Mike Smith, music director; Troy Grubbs, pastor.

Oakvale (Lawrence): Aug. 7-12; Sunday at 11, with dinner on the ground; S. A. (Sonny) Adkins, evangelist; Steve Warren, singer; Sammy Chisolm, pastor; Oakvale community homecoming, Sat., Aug. 6, at Oakvale Firehouse.

Union (Covington): Aug. 7-12; services Sun.-Fri. at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Larry Sweat of Jacksonville, Fla., evangelist; Michael Racey, pastor.

Willow Grove Church (Attala): Aug. 7-12; at 11 a.m. on Sunday, followed by dinner in the fellowship hall and an afternoon service, but no evening service; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Joe Royalty, pastor at Eastabuchie, evangelist; Ronnie McCall, Seminary, music director; Billy Purser, pastor.

Central Baptist Church, Brookhaven: Aug. 14-19; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Huey Moak, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Jamall Badry, Colorado Springs, Colo., music evangelist; Paul Wilson, pastor.

Bethany (Lauderdale): Aug. 14-19; Sunday at 11 and 6, weekdays at 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Bishop, evangelist; Millie Parnell, music evangelist; James E. Walker, interim pastor.

Salem, Raymond: homecoming and revival; Aug. 14-19; Billy J. Jones, retired Air Force chaplain, now interim pastor at the church, evangelist; Robert Shuttleworth, minister of music at First, Raymond, music director; Ruth Ann Osborn, Patricia Ferguson, and Peggy Gates, accompanists; revival opens with Sunday morning service at 11; dinner on the grounds Sunday after the morning service.

Pine Grove (Simpson): Aug. 7-12; Doug Hogg, pastor, preaching; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

Hebron (Jones): Aug. 7-12; Harold Anderson, retired director of missions, evangelist; Lee Gordon, minister of music at Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, leading the music; regular services Sun.; during week at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Wade Rogers, pastor.

Hopewell Baptist Church (Copiah): Aug. 7-10; Sun. at 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Curtis Roland, pastor of Lorena Baptist Church, Smith County, and a member of the Sons of Faith Quartet, evangelist; Leroy Stuart, minister of music at Edwards Baptist Church, song leader; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

Antioch (Clarke): Aug. 7-12; Sun. at 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and singing at 2:30; each evening at 7:30; Wesley Enfinger, pastor of Hebron Ridge Church, evangelist; Mark McIntyre, music director, East Pleasant Grove, leading music; Lester Griffin, pastor.

Trinity Baptist Church, Carthage: Aug. 7-12; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Hardy R. Denham, Jr., president of Pulpit Ministries, Newton, evangelist; Herman A. Milner, Jr., minister of music and education, Midway Baptist Church, Jackson, directing the music; Bobby Waggoner, pastor; (XYZ, senior adult choir, to sing Fri. night).

Montgomery Church, Summit: Aug. 7-12; at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Houston, evangelist; Joey Hart, singer; Robert L. Mooney, pastor.

Mt. Zion Church (Rankin): Aug. 7-12; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; during the week at 7:30 p.m.; John Brock, pastor, Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, evangelist; Richard Sullivan, minister of music at Flowood Baptist Church, and Brenda Sullivan, guest musicians; John Patterson, pastor.

First Church, McLaurin: Aug. 7-12; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sun.; 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; Harry Lucenay, pastor, Temple Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Gary Sumrall, music director at Glendale, Hattiesburg, leading music; Jerry G. Wise, pastor; homecoming Sunday, Aug. 7, with dinner at the church.

Trinity, Biloxi: Aug. 28-31; services at 7 p.m.; Bobby Perry, Gulf Coast director of missions, evangelist; Larry Stringfield, music leader; William J. Abel, pastor.

Revenge is the most worthless weapon in the world. It ruins the avenger while more firmly confirming the enemy in his wrong. It initiates an endless flight down a bottomless stairway of rancorous reprisals and ruthless retaliations.—David Augsburger

Mt. Zion Church (Rankin): Aug. 7-12; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; during the week at 7:30 p.m.; John Brock, pastor, Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, evangelist; Richard Sullivan, minister of music at Flowood Baptist Church, and Brenda Sullivan, guest musicians; John Patterson, pastor.

New Hope Church (Marion): Aug. 14-19; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. with dinner following the morning service; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Joel Haire, evangelist, pastor, First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs; James Beasley, music evangelist, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs; Bobby Smith, pastor.

Thomastown (Leake): Aug. 7-12; at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Raymond C. Parkin, pastor, Crestview Church, Petal, evangelist; Harry Daniels, Carthage, leading the music; W. A. Troutman, pastor.

Harmony Church, Crystal Springs: Aug. 7-12; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; John Pulliam, music director; Mike Pennock, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., with lunch served at the church; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

Providence (Attala): Aug. 7-10; H. C. Adams, pastor, Salem Church, Leake County, evangelist; Jimmy Sledge, music director; Tommy Simmons, pianist; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Walter Hines, pastor.

Oakland Grove Church, Laurel: Aug. 8-12; at 7:30 p.m.; Ed Hollomon, pastor of Corinth Church, speaking; Lester Gardner, interim pastor.

Williamsburg (Collins): Aug. 7-12; Freddie Womble, evangelist; W. W. Holifield, music director; Sunday at 10:45 a.m., with lunch in the church, singing and preaching at 2 p.m., and no night service; week night services at 7:30; Gale Anderson, pastor.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Senatobia: Aug. 7-12; Gordon Sansing, pastor of First Baptist Church, Collinsville, featured speaker; Archie Goodwin, minister of music and youth at Ebenezer, to lead the music; Alicia Castillo and Mrs. Helen White, accompanists; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sun.; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the week; Claude Lazenby, pastor.

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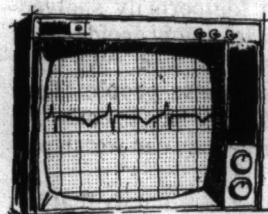
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Germantown, Tenn. 38138
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Intensive care

Dedicated to strengthening families
Directed by a team of family life specialists

What is happiness?

It seems everyone is bent on being happy. What is happiness? How do you know when you have it?
—May be happy

Dear May be: Hear with your heart this bit of verse written by Ruth H. Moody entitled "Happiness, What Is It?"

Happiness is a cool spring morning
With birds singing in the air.
Happiness is a child letting sunshine in
And not a single care.

Happiness is contentment, peace of mind,
A carefree day with friends;
Happiness is encouragement, a feeling of self-worth,
Challenges and goals to reach.

Happiness is God's love, unconditional,
Smiling down on us even when we sin.
Happiness is forgiveness from a

dear friend;
Being made whole again.

Happiness is Christian friends, sharing,
Loving and caring.
Happiness is comfort from God and Blessings unending.

Now read Matthew 5:3-10, best stated in Today's English Version. "Happy are those . . ." Jesus stated in verse 6, "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully."

Inquiries to Intensive Care are welcomed. Readers who feel the need of being in touch with Intensive Care are encouraged to write. Identities remain confidential. And though the identities of those performing this ministry have been kept confidential to this point, they are well qualified for the service they are rendering. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.—Editor.

capsules

Commissioned

The Foreign Mission Board commissioned four journeymen from Mississippi on July 22. These have been in for training since April. They are Terry Dent, Holly Springs, who will be serving in South Africa; Tom Ferguson, Hattiesburg, Kenya; Anne Harrington, Houston, Japan; and Jeff Keyes, Clinton, Botswana.

Vatican bill

WASHINGTON (BP)—Legislation to establish U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican has been introduced by the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee along with 25 co-sponsors.

H. J. Res. 316, introduced by Clement J. Zablocki, D-Wis., would repeal part of an 1867 statute barring funds for a diplomatic representative to the pope. The Reagan administration has indicated its support for the bill, which would open the way for the president to establish formal ties at his discretion.

Bus pull injures

TULSA, Okla. (BP)—Two young boys were hospitalized with broken bones after being injured in a bus-pulling contest staged by Eastwood Church, Tulsa, on Sunday afternoon, July 17. Three to four hundred bus ministry children were divided into teams to pull more than 15 church buses with ropes across a 30-yard parking lot.

An Eastwood spokesman said the injured boys, ages 6 and 13, were listed in fair condition at St. John's Hospital and were expected to remain in the hospital 10 days to two weeks.

Albert Powell, father of Mrs. Rodrick Conerly, died July 10 in Galveston, Tex. Mrs. Conerly is a missionary to Peru (Apartado 3177, Lima 100, Peru). She was born in Franklinton, La., and considers Oyska, Miss., her hometown. Her husband is a native of Oyska.

Carol A. Fairley, special project worker to Ghana, has arrived on the field (address: Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu via Gambaga, Ghana). A native of Louisville, Ky., she was a charge nurse in Ruleville, Miss., at the time of her employment with the Foreign Mission Board in December, 1982.

Fundamentalists

KANSAS CITY, Ks. (EP)—More than 25,000 fundamentalists from independent Baptist churches across the country are expected to seek to heal old wounds and dispel their image as "snake handlers" at a convention next April in Washington, according to Religious News Service.

The "Baptist Fundamentalism '84" conference will attempt to define what fundamentalists believe, which is based on five Baptist fundamentals: Bible Scripture is without error; Christ is God in the flesh; Christ died for the sins of mankind; Christ rose bodily; and Christ will return bodily.

Organizers say that closer fellowships, not an ongoing organization, are the aim of the convention.

Cancer fight

NEW YORK (EP)—Evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton, sister of former President Jimmy Carter, has been told she has terminal cancer. In a recent interview on the NBC Today program, Stapleton disclosed that she has cancer of the pancreas and has been given less than one percent chance of survival by her doctors, according to Christian Life magazine.

Nevertheless, she has decided to forego conventional prescribed procedures of chemotherapy and radiation, she said, and will rely instead on prayer and a diet regimen to effect a cure.

Siberians leave

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (EP)—After five years, Montgomery, Ala., housewife Jane Drake has won in her battle against the Soviet Union.

Drake, 37, launched an extensive fight for the release of the two Siberian Pentecostal families who had hidden in the basement of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, waiting to emigrate.

The Vaschenko family was allowed to emigrate to Israel earlier this month. (See story, page 1.) Today, the 15 members of the Chmykalov family are expected to leave for Israel.

In 1978, members of the two families burst past Soviet guards into the U.S. Embassy. When Drake, a Presbyterian, saw the news accounts of the incident, she decided to try to help. "It took me a week to write my first letter to Moscow," she recalled.

In 1979, Drake enlisted the help of several congressmen and helped gather petitions with 6,000 names. She also sent the families a Russian language Bible signed by 500 supporters.

First, McLaurin marks Golden Jubilee of WMU

First Baptist Church, McLaurin, held a special day, July 10, honoring the Woman's Missionary Union in that church on its Golden Jubilee.

Four living charter members were recognized. They are Mrs. Vivian Pyburn, Mrs. Iola Howard, Mrs. Alberta Dunkley, and Mrs. Ruby Mapp. Mrs. Joncie Howell, WMU director for the church and also for Lebanon Baptist Association, presented a gold WMU pin to each of them.

Joel Ray, Lebanon director of missions, acted as master of ceremonies. A panel discussion was held, with charter members telling happenings of early years in the church's WMU. Marjean Patterson, Clinton, state WMU director, was guest speaker.

An old-fashioned dinner on the ground was served after the morning service. Jerry G. Wise is the pastor.

Oak Grove will dedicate sanctuary

Oak Grove Baptist Church, Shubuta, will dedicate its new sanctuary on Sunday, Aug. 7, in a service at 3 p.m. The day will also be observed as homecoming at Oak Grove. After the morning service, dinner will be served at the church at noon.

Winter will speak at MC commencement

Gov. William F. Winter of Mississippi will be the featured speaker for the summer commencement scheduled at Mississippi College on Aug. 13, at 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on the campus in Clinton.

Winter's address and the exercises will bring to a close the 157th academic session at the college. There were 447 individuals who received degrees during the annual spring commencement in May.

Lewis Nobles, president of the college, will confer the degrees on the 110 graduates. There will be 47 persons receiving undergraduate degrees, 54 graduate degrees, six the education specialist degree, and three the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the School of Law.



NINE STUDENTS in Grade Six Department, First Baptist Church, West Point's Sunday School have received certificates from the Baptist Sunday School Board for reaching the level of excellence in Bible Searchers Memory Plan. They are, front row, from left, Cheryl Simmons, Jane Glasgow, Carolyn Ellis, B. Z. Dyer, memory work coordinator, and second row, Patricia Lyons, Shannon Carter, Leigh Robinson, and Donnie Arnold. The other two are Jodi Trulove and John Cantrell. These pupils learned over 40 memory verses, all books and divisions of the Bible, and four long memory passages. Mrs. Allie S. Vance is department director; David Hall is pastor.

Names In The News

Altie Grubb, a former employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Hinds County Baptist Association, died Tuesday, July 26, in St. Louis, Mo. She was 89. Funeral services were held Friday, July 29, at 2:30 p.m. at Carpenter Street Baptist Church, Moberly, Mo. Miss Grubb worked in various capacities in the Baptist Building, at Camp Garaywa, and as secretary / bookkeeper for J. Clark Hensley, when he was director of missions for Hinds Association. After her retirement, she returned to East Carondelet, Ill., across the river from her native Missouri. Survivors include two nieces.

Thomas Hastings Baker, 66, retired Home Mission Board director, died July 13 following open-heart surgery. Baker worked at the HMB for 17 years and is perhaps best known for a series of paintings depicting the history of the HMB which were first displayed at the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans. He was born in Charlotte, N.C., and grew up in Nashville, Tenn., and Tampa, Fla.

B. G. Hickem, assistant executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, has resigned to become pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla. Hickem, 55, had held the state convention post since 1974. Hickem will assume leadership of the 1,500 member Riverside church which has been without a pastor nearly a year. Prior to joining the convention staff, he spent 29 years as pastor in Florida, Arkansas, and Kentucky.

Bill Barnes will complete ten years as minister of music at Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, on Aug. 15. He came to the church from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, Kermit D. McGregor, pastor, ordained Bryan T. Robbins, Jr. (Rob) on Sunday night, July 24. He has assumed the position as minister of music/pastoral assistant at the Monticello Baptist Church.

Hardy R. Denham, Jr., president of Pulpit Ministries, Newton, and author of four books, will be presented in an autograph party at the Carthage-Leake County Library, from 2 to 4 p.m., Aug. 8, during the week in which he will be preaching for a revival at Trinity Baptist Church, Carthage. His books are Living Toward a Vision; Freedom from Frustration; After You've Said 'I Do'; and Marriage Renewal Sourcebook.

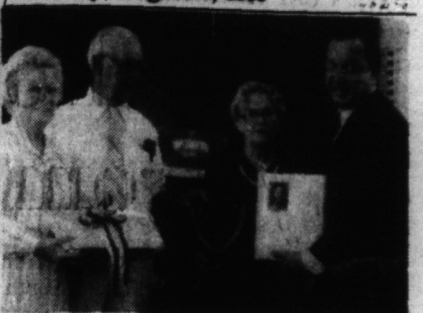
Charles Davis, associate professor of Bible at Mississippi College, was selected as a participant in a workshop on Archaeology and the Bible, held at Biola University, La Mirada, Calif., July 23-29. The workshop was part of a series of ten sponsored by the Christian College Coalition and funded under a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The workshop attended by Davis dealt with the direct impact of new archaeological discoveries upon the interpretation of scriptures.

Five persons with Mississippi ties were among the 167 who received degrees during Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's commencement in Fort Worth, Tex., July 15. Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. conferred the degrees. Mississippi graduates are: Kenneth Ray Brooks, master of religious education, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. James Rushing of Brookhaven; Julian Walter Fagan III, master of divinity, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fagan Jr., Laurel (Fagan was named the outstanding graduate of the theology school); William Vincent Johnson, master of divinity, son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy G. Johnson, pastor of Dixie Baptist Church, Hattiesburg. (His father is pastor in Hattiesburg. The graduate is pastor of College View Baptist Church in Denton, Texas.); Timothy Wayne Leggett, graduate specialist in religious education, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Homer Leggett of Laurel; Milton Scott Pace, master of religious education, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton L. Pace of Jackson.

The Board of Advisors for the Outstanding Young Men of America awards program has announced names of three from Mississippi who have been selected for inclusion in the 1983 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America. They are Barry Hardy, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs; Edward Jerome Pilgrim, Carthage, pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church, Leake County; and Tim Nicholas, Jackson, associate editor, the Baptist Record.

Brian Horton, youth evangelist, may be reached by telephone at 455-2181 (and not 445-2181, as printed in last week's Baptist Record). He lives in Greenwood.

Thursday, August 4, 1983



MRS. ANNIE BARBER received a plaque recently for 17 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School at First Baptist Church, Carriere. It was presented by the Sunday School director, Neal Morehead. A gift was presented from the Homemakers Sunday School Class by Mrs. Nina Smith. The pastor, Wm. Gary Smith, also gave her a family size Bible. Left to right: Nina Smith, Morehead, Barber, the pastor.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM
Baptist Children's Village
P. O. Box 11308 Jackson, MS 39213

Gifts of Honor and Memory

June 26 - July 25

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

- Mr. Miller Abraham
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shawlosky
W. R. Gregory
Mrs. Lillie Adkins
Mrs. Eva Daughdrill
Mrs. Maude Kelly Rayburn
Mrs. Patsy Faye Voss Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Hayward, Jr.
Miss Genevieve Anderson
Charles & Betty Ellerbe
Mr. John Arterbury
Mrs. Emily A. Newton
M. L. Ashley
G. M. Drummond
Mrs. V. L. Brooks
Mr. Emilie Assaf
Doyle & Frances Jones
Tommy & Nancy Jones
Mrs. Hazel C. Ramsey
Tozey R. Antman
Mr. A. W. Lang, III
Mrs. Billie Francis Bagerdell
Ida E. Ingram
S. Monroe Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Moore & Family
Mr. The Family
Mrs. Esther Mills
Mr. Charles Baker
Mr. M. Murray A. Evans
Mrs. W. H. Baker
Mrs. R. H. Speed
Mr. James L. Barefoot
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Van Naman
Mrs. Mary Blanche Barrette
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bodie
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Holloway
Mrs. Elaine Barwick
Mrs. R. B. Gill
Mrs. Ruth Bishop
The Actioneers, Hazlehurst
Father of Mrs. Fred Black
Harold & June Brooks
Michael Blount
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Jamison
T. Deane Rodgers
Mrs. Tom Boone, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Shadrach
Mother of Miss Helen Branning
Harold & June Brooks
Mr. Alton Brassel
"Aunt Effie"
Eloise, Nan & Families
Mrs. Eloise Tullos
O. E. Brezinski
Mrs. and Mrs. Chester W. Pratt
Mrs. Bridges
Mrs. Henry M. (Ruby) Brumfield
Sallie Main
Fred Bryant
Rebekah K. Myers
- Forrest Bule
Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Yerega
Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Peebles, Jr.
Mrs. Alfreda Carasano
Mr. A. W. Lang, III
Lake Christian
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Lee & Natalie Scruggs
Mr. John Cox
First Baptist Church, Vicksburg
Robert H. Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Sam T. Carter
Mrs. Maxine Crane
Mr. and Mrs. McElrie Mitchell
McElrie Cox Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Pritchard
Miss Laura Pritchard
John Bryan Crawford
Bob & Sadie Crawford
Willie Hood Crawford
Bob & Sadie Crawford
Mrs. Jane Credink
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hollimon
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Mr. Clark Cross
Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Hutton
Mr. J. K. Culpher
Mrs. Erin L. Elward & Family
Miss Katie Davis
Miss Mary Alice Willis
Laura Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Holloway
Mrs. Addie Denson
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Merrell
Alvon Doty, III
Dr. R. C. O'Ferrall
Mrs. W. R. Newman
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Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Loper
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Troy Lee McKee, Sr.
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Charles McPherson
Mrs. W. B. Fletcher, Sr.
Loren Miller
Mrs. Thomas Shelton
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Mr. and Mrs. Burnell Brown
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Mrs. Ernie Campbell
Francis (Frank) Bill Morgan
Mrs. Jesse Jones
Gary R. Parvin
Connie Jackson
Fred, Rose & Amy Powers
Mr. Lennox Murray
First Baptist Church, Hollinger
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hollinger
Meredith Musil
Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Jackson
J. J. Myers
Mrs. Essie F. Meyers
Mrs. Amy Ellen Wood Nash
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil M. Boland
Estella Odum
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Holloway
Mrs. Myrtle Oglesby
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Dillard
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Mrs. L. B. Morris
Claire L. Ferris
Bank of Macon
Mr. Gus Pugh
Verna Nunery
Mrs. Lucy Quick
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Price
Ed Quinlley
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Aust
Webb Ready
Dr. R. C. O'Ferrall
Mrs. Bess Reiser
Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hammond
Mrs. Edna Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Carr
Mrs. E. M. Carr
Mack Rhear
Fayette Baptist Church
Thomas Arthur Richardson
Shoquak Baptist Church
Mr. Robbins
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Blackledge
Mrs. S. L. Roper
Mrs. Winnie Carlisle
Mrs. Ardis Rable
Mr. and Mrs. Walter McCain
Miss Rebecca Leigh Sandifer
Mrs. Martin P. Welhing
Mrs. Thomas (Mac) Saterfield
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby D. Jolly
Mrs. H. L. Thompson
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Mr. Anson Sheldon, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Childress
Clark Simpson
Mrs. Opal D. Blakemore
Mr. Curtis Smith
Bernie Cain
Mr. Elmer Smith
Flora Dell Smith
Mrs. J. H. Smith
Miss Earline Keith
Mrs. Walter Smith, Sr.
Mrs. W. B. Ranson
Mrs. Nola Bell Smoke
Foy Davis
Nettie Harris
Mrs. Hester Snider
Mrs. W. B. Ranson
Mrs. G. D. (Marguerite Jenkins) Standridge
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Mr. L. E. Tyler
Jeanette Oppenheim
Mr. M. E. Van Landingham
Mr. and Mrs. Billy F. Fairchild

- Grace Wigley
Olivia Gonzales
Mrs. C. E. Ray
Mrs. Pat Williams
Rev. & Mrs. James H. Moore
Mrs. Peter Fairley Williams
Mrs. W. T. Townsend
Mrs. Robbie Casey Williams
Mrs. Wilbur Welch
Mrs. Wilber H. Rainey
William Wood
Verna Nunery
Forest Earl Wyatt
Aline B. Myers
Mrs. Mildred Young
Ruth Sunday School, Marks
Herbert S. Zimmerman
Mr. and Mrs. Pate Brown, Jr.
GIFTS OF HONOR
Mary Lou Magee
Bob & Sadie Crawford

Holiday Hosts, We Thank You!

The summer holiday, or "vacation," as Village youngsters refer to the traditional 15-day visit, mid-summer, into private homes has almost ended. Many boys and girls from each of the five Village locations have enjoyed the hospitality of friends and the strengths of private living during this respite from normal Village routine.

The Baptist Children's Village is one of the residential child care agencies which pioneered the custom of holiday visiting by agency children into private homes many, many years ago. Those who directed our efforts at that early date believed, as we believe now,

the experience to be valuable as a means of keeping youngsters in touch with the realities of private living in the public community.

For all of us, and especially for Mrs. Claire Nowlin, director of our Department of Social Service, and the staff member who does all of the work attendant upon this ambitious undertaking, we thank the nice people of Mississippi who have opened their homes, as holiday hosts, to Village children this July and August.

Again you have demonstrated your loyalty and support. The custom will be repeated at the Christmas season.

"Special Projects"

Volunteers from Baptist churches in the state, and from their auxiliaries continue to lend mighty assistance in our repair and rehabilitation needs, and we are grateful!

Recently, groups from Gulf Coast and Pearl River Associations have made Village "news" by affording us substantial help in completing work at Deanash, the newest Village Group Home, recently occupied at Bond, in Stone County. More than 400, primarily from Hinds-Madison Baptist Association, completely re-roofed the 10 original cottages on The India Nunnery Campus, IN ONE DAY—an almost super-human effort.

During late July, again on The India Nunnery Campus, our children have been blessed through associations with a group of men from Bolivar Baptist Association who constructed a covered play pavilion near Hester Activities Building, a Village Alumni Association project.

Also, dozens of men and women from Pearl River Baptist Association have visited for more than a week effecting needed repairs at several cottages and roofing repair at our administration building. How fortunate we are to be Baptist, and to have friends like these!

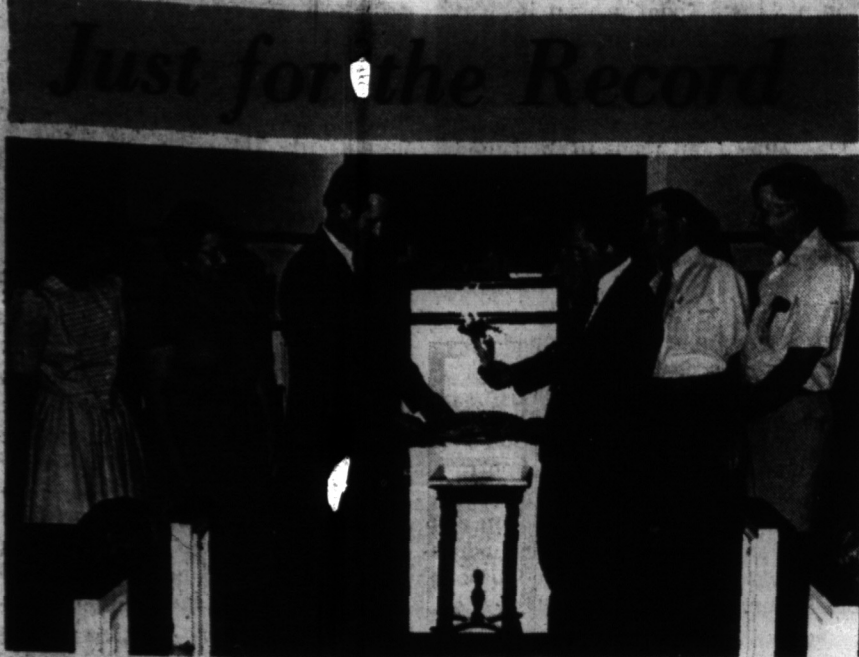
Did You Know? . . .

1. That since the first group of children to actually enter Village care were admitted on May 12, 1897, we completed our 86th year of continuous and uninterrupted operation on May 12, 1983?
2. That The Village extended its custodial care and services to 530 boys and girls in our business year which ended on June 30, 1983?
3. That The Children's Village in all of its programs and operating procedures, meets spiritual, moral, and ethical standards equal to the highest observed in the nation, and we are the only child or family caring agency in the Deep South which is accredited by National Association of Homes for Children?
4. That again in 1983-84, 13 of our young people will pursue, with our support and assistance, higher education on the college level?
5. That The Village must pay 25c to redeem an envelope which does not bear a postage stamp from the post office including an envelope transmitting your Memorial or other gifts?
6. That The Village must expend more than \$350 per day every day for food, in addition to the food which we grow?
7. That ours is a purely voluntary non-profit ministry, neither seeking nor accepting funding from government at any level, and existing, as to both operating and capital needs, on the contributions of Mississippi Baptist churches and individual friends of children?
8. That The Baptist Children's Village is the official, and the only, child care agency of The Mississippi Baptist Convention?
9. That we now operate from five Mississippi locations, with a sixth to be added late in 1983?
10. That you may obtain additional information about The Village by writing to us at P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, Miss. 39213?

Corey honored

Baptist Children's Village board of trustees President Lyle V. Corey accepts a plaque from Paul Nunery, Village executive director, in recognition of his service on the board as member and as its retiring president. The plaque, a gift from the children and staff, reads "For selfless service to boys and girls as Trustee 36 years, President 1981-1983, and an Expansion Leader". Corey is an attorney in Meridian and is a deacon in Highland Church.





GASTON BAPTIST CHURCH conducted a noteburning service on July 17, after retiring the note on its Family Life Center. Pictured are Nellie Hatfield, Dot Garner (Building Committee members); Milton Koon, pastor; David Moore, Willie Hatfield, and Charles "Red" Garner (Building Committee members). Other members of the committee were James "Dick" Bullard and Eugene Gifford.

Construction of the building was begun in the fall of 1977. The church borrowed \$67,000, with the first payment to be made on Jan. 5, 1979, and the last payment was due on Jan. 5, 1988. However, the building was completely paid for on July 5, 1983, exactly 4½ years from the date of the first payment. The cost of the building and furnishings was \$109,000. The building contains educational space, a large, fully-equipped kitchen, and a gymnasium with a full-size basketball court.

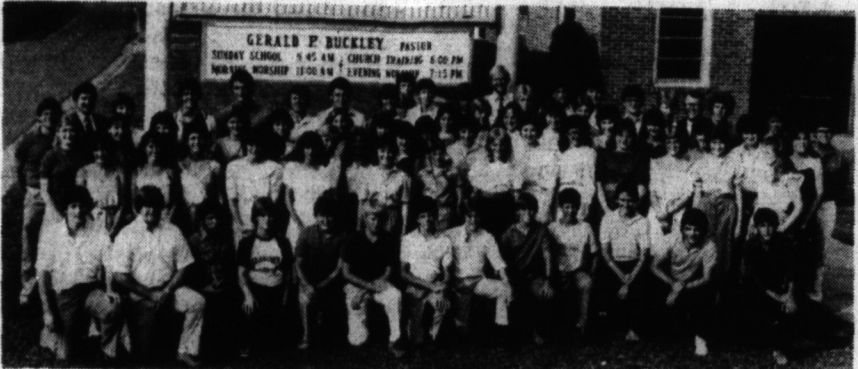
A day-long session on providing solace for the dying and comfort for the bereaved, presented by Deanna Edwards, will be held Aug. 17 at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Nurses' Association's Oncology Nurses Special Interest Group, the program, "Music, Laughter and Tears," will demonstrate the role music can play in the celebration of life and help participants come to grips with individual feelings about loneliness, isolation, anxiety, pain, dependence, sickness, loss, and death. Deanna Edwards, a guest faculty member at Brigham Young University, presents workshops across the United States and Canada. Pre-registration fee will be \$10 and the on-site fee \$15. The Mississippi Nurses' Association, 135 Bounds Street, Jackson, MS, 39206; 982-9182 may be contacted for registration forms.

Nursery 1 (from birth to two years) at Cason Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Nettleton, broke an attendance record on a recent Sunday, with 16 present, including three sets of twins. The twins were Kirk and Kyle Mansell, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Mansell; Christy and Ginger Sherron, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Sherron; and Justin and Jessica Wright, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wright. Nursery workers are Glenda Brown and Kenny Shelton. Wayne Vines is pastor.



WANILLA BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR, "Fishers of Men," traveled to Hinesville, Ga., recently to present the musical, "Make it Clear," at Gum Branch Baptist Church, Roger Wilkins, pastor. They spent the weekend in homes of church members. Before leaving, they performed in several churches of Lawrence and Lincoln counties in Mississippi. Left to right, front row: Sandy Morris, a ventriloquist, and her dummy, Simon, who introduced the group, Robert Russell, Shelley Smith, Denise Letchworth, Kristi Caves, Cindy Dawsey, Angela Hedgepeth; Polly Hall, Laura Boyte, Cheryl Jacobs. Back row: Gladys Tyrone, Mary Ann Tyrone, Glenn Tyrone, Elaine Letchworth, David Caves, Edward Rhinewalt, choir director, Kenny Morris, Shelley Jean Boutwell, Billy Dawsey, Becky Dawsey, Linda Boyte, Gilbert Jacobs. Also with the group were Billy Joe Boutwell, sound; Sidney Hall, driver; Mrs. Margaret Lea; Mrs. Myrtis Tyrone; Amanda Boyte; DeShane Hall. Fred Morris is pastor at Vanilla.



"HIS WITNESSES," youth choir of Parkway Baptist Church, Natchez, presented the musical, "We Are The Reason," during a ten day tour in Florida: three days at Disneyworld/Epcot; presentation of the musical at First Baptist Church and Northside Baptist Church in Panama City; and a 4½ day beach retreat at "Periwinkle by the Sea," Panama City, with Steve Lanier from Jackson as guest speaker. The choir gave a concert at their home church July 31.



Roseland Park Baptist Church, Picayune, celebrated on July 12 its 50 years of service. In a homecoming service after dinner on the grounds, the three living charter members were given plaques. The pastor, Gene Smith, at right, read the church history. Tapes of greetings from former pastors were presented. Speakers included Greg Mitchell, mayor of Picayune; Dub Herring, member of the Long Range Planning Committee; and Marvin Lee, at left, Pearl River County director of missions. The last bond on the new education building was burned by Glen Rogers, chairman of deacons, and Buford Frierson, treasurer. The church is now debt free.

Devotional God, a revealer

By Maurice E. Flowers, Jr.
director of missions, Jones County, Laurel

It is significant indeed that God, who is all powerful, all knowing, and all sufficient, is a God who seeks enthusiastically to speak to man. God is revealed even in the creation story as one who communicates. He spoke the world into existence.

Hear the record in Genesis 1:3, "Let there be light" (v. 6); "let there be a firmament" (v. 9); "let the waters under the earth be gathered into one place"; "let the dry land appear," etc. God communicates. But listen again! On the sixth day, God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." He made man with the capacity to communicate with God.

Since that day, God has been reaching out to man, seeking to communicate, seeking to reveal himself to man. He reached out to Adam and Eve, and they enjoyed those walks with God in the cool of the day. Yet they rejected him and were cut off.

God reached out to Cain and Abel, but Cain rejected him and killed Abel. God reached out to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, and their descendants. But man has persistently rejected God's voice.

The author of Hebrews said, "In these last days (God) has spoken to us in his Son" (NAS). Paul said in II Cor. 5:19, "To wit that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself," and again in Romans 5:8, "God commended his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Christ continues today to reach out to mankind. He stands at the crossroads of life today, warning men of continuing rebellion against God. He speaks to men through his written word, through his faithful followers, through his still small voice in the inner man. He speaks through the circumstances of life.

Stop! Listen to his voice. Respond to his love and mercy today. Isaiah said, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."



Flowers

Homecomings

Concord (Yazoo): Aug. 7; homecoming; special service at 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; Tommy R. Bufkin, pastor.

Rock Bluff near Polkville: Aug. 7; beginning at 10:45 a.m.; Curtis McGee, pastor, New Liberty Church, Morton, and a former pastor at Rock Bluff, speaking; mid-day meal to be served in the newly enlarged and renovated fellowship hall; afternoon gospel singing, featuring Dixieland Quartet; Tommy Miles, pastor.

80th anniversary

West Laurel Church, Laurel: Aug. 14; homecoming day, celebrating the 80th anniversary of the church (West Laurel was organized in November, 1903); an "ole-fashioned fellowship" on Sat. night, Aug. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., honoring former pastors and staff members with Waddell Valentine, former minister of music, in charge of program; former pastor, Robert L. Orr, speaker for Sunday morning at 10:30, with Bob Coleman, former minister of music, leading singing; lunch in the Family Life Building Sun. at noon; Roy L. Hamilton, pastor; Mrs. Frances Myrick, chairman of Homecoming committee.

Bible Book

Teachings in the home

By Harry L. Lucenay, pastor,
Temple, Hattiesburg
Proverbs 30:1-31:31

Little is known of Agur, Jakah, and King Lemuel. However, these three sages unleash rich reservoirs of truth to men of all ages. The focal passages for study this week center on relationships within the home.

Children treat their parents with respect (30:11, 17). There is no place for the child who curses his parents. Children are to treat their parents with sincere respect, self-denying obedience, and kind attention (6:20-23). The Old Testament called for the death penalty when children cursed their parents (Exodus 21:17), but the degree to which this penalty was carried out is under some question.

The virtuous woman was treasured by her husband (31:10-12, 23, 28). She is a trustworthy individual (v. 11, 23). Because she was able to trust herself, she trusted her husband and created an environment of trust. She was tender (v. 12, 28). No doubt she was able to express her love, thoughtfulness, gentleness, and kindness. "I love you," "I need you," and "I am proud of you" were words she used to edify her husband.

The virtuous woman was talented in her home (31:13-19, 21, 22, 24-27). She was industrious. Unlike the widows of I Timothy 5:13-15, she was able to manage her household, invest money, handle property, and do business in the market. She was intelligent, using wisdom and acting with forethought.

The virtuous woman was a teacher to her children (31:15, 17, 21). She maintained a disciplined lifestyle, girding the flowing garments about her to leave her free for unhampered work. This discipline in work carried over into the relationship with her children. The rod and reproof were familiar elements of wisdom for her children (29:15). Yet this lady was diplomatic (31:26). By her consolation, she built an image within her children of what they wanted to become. She guarded her tongue with grace that evil would find no home in her mouth (Ephesians 4:29-32). Her depth is seen in the way she invested herself in her home.

The virtuous woman was thoughtful of her neighbors (31:20). Although she was efficient and concerned, she was not selfish. Charity flowed from her heart. Her caring manner searched out the need of mind and matter and lifted them to the joy of self worth. Because she made them feel understood, she met more than the eye could see.

The virtuous woman was true to her lord (31:30). She loved the Lord. Godly fear is not a shrinking apprehension; it is love upon its knees. She could say with the psalmist, "I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications" (Psalm 116:1). She learned from the Lord how to avoid sin (Psalm 119:11). She matured and developed as she studied God's Word and applied that truth to daily life. Therefore, she learned to live for the Lord. The New Testament challenges all women (and men) to live for the Lord by resisting the mold of this world and allowing the will of God to renew their minds and correct their ways (Romans 12:1, 2).

Matthew Henry closes his commentary in this section of scripture with these striking words. "This is shut-out (finished). This is a looking glass for ladies which they are desired to open and dress themselves by and if they do so, their adorning will be found to praise and honor the appearing of Jesus."

In Genesis, Rebekah lived a life characterized by deception. In Exodus, Jochebed lived a life characterized by resourcefulness. In Mark, Herodias lived a life characterized by manipulation. In Proverbs, there exists the writer whose wife was characterized by the virtues of godliness.

Once there were two young men jealous of an old man in a community who had developed quite a reputation for being wise. One day they devised a plot to try to humiliate the old man publicly. They took a tiny bird just after it had hatched and went to the old man. "We have a bird in our hands. Is it dead or alive?" they said. If the old man said it was dead, they could open their hands and show it was still alive. If he said it was alive, they could gently squeeze the bird and then show it was dead. Thus, either answer would be wrong. The question was confidently asked of the old man. After a long pause the old man said softly, "The answer, my son, is in your hands."

The quality of motherhood, fatherhood (Psalm 1) — ultimately is what one chooses to make it... but remember that choice is really made moment by moment, day by day, year by year (24:3-4).

If you hug to yourself any resentment against anybody else, you destroy the bridge by which God would come to you.—Peter Marshall

Uniform

Naomi and Ruth: shared loyalty

By Clarence H. Cutrell, Jackson
Ruth 1-4

Coming to the study of these two women brings us to some insight into the relationship which existed between them and makes their story a thing of beauty indeed. It is one of the numerous dual relations which are discussed in the word of God to which we will direct our study during the month of August. However, we are in danger of missing the beauty of this one if we allow our minds to become too embroiled with some of the strange customs of this era in Israel's history. Let us rather look for revelations of feminine courage, the kind of love and loyalty so needed in our homes today, deep religious faith, and commitment to idealistic truths. We will find these in three phases of this relationship.

1. Complete conversion (Ruth 1:16-20). In the preceding verses of this chapter we learn of the acts of God which had brought together these two women, one an Israelite and the other a Moabite, as mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. No two women could have come from more diverse backgrounds. Different in nationality, customs, morals and serving two entirely different systems of religion.

But the first two verses of our study indicate why they could now share a life of such common loyalty. Remember that there were two daughters-in-law; one decided to return to her mother's home, the other, Ruth, chose to go with Naomi. I mention this just to point out that there was a choice in the situation. Naomi had been quite candid in sharing with the two women the hardships which awaited them in Bethlehem—no opportunity to remarry, no relatives to look to for support and the utter disdain of the women of Bethlehem which would greet a foreigner, especially from the hated Moabites.

So it appears most apparent to me from the facts of the situation, Ruth's entreaty, and Naomi's acceptance of her decision (vv. 18-20) that Ruth's conversion to the worship of Jehovah was indeed complete. Also it would appear quite certain that this is one of the most important facts which enabled Naomi and Ruth to face a life of hardships, uncertainties, and testings with unflinching faith in God, unquestionable and unquestioning dedication to daily tasks, and manifest love and loyalty toward each other.

2. Complete confidence (Ruth 3:1-5). No two persons can continue long in any kind of dual relationship without the basic ingredient of confidence in

each other. In the first place, Naomi was fully confident that Ruth would follow the rather strange instructions which she gives her in this section of the book. They probably sounded just as difficult to understand for Ruth as they do to many people today. It seems that this custom lies so far back in antiquity that the true interpretation of it has been lost. But let it be pointed out that it appears that nothing but good came out of this action. Ruth found a "kinsman-redeemer"; Boaz found a young woman to be his wife, and Naomi at last received into her hungry arms a grandson. Surely with so much good emanating from the incident, no one could say that there was any indecency here, certainly no immoral intention or act.

But for Ruth to do 'all that her mother-in-law told her to do' required on the part of Ruth complete confidence in Naomi. And all of these wonderful and rewarding blessings seem to have flowed directly out of Naomi's confidence in God. It is also evident that the trust which Boaz placed in Ruth, a young woman of character, and in Jehovah God who would enable them to solve all of the problems related to their eventual marriage, insured the answer to Naomi's prayers.

3. Complete contentment (Ruth 4:13-17). Although this story is fact, not fiction, these closing verses give us the perfect conclusion to a romantic novel. Every statement gives us a picture of complete contentment. At the beginning every human element only added more darkness to the picture of the future for Naomi and Ruth. But here we see Boaz rejoicing in the love of a young wife who, through the will and planning of God had found her husband and provider.

The marriage is consummated and a son is born. This son not only completes the family picture for Boaz and Ruth; he also makes Naomi a proud grandmother. And, perhaps, one of the biggest additions to the picture of contentment is the changed attitude of the women of the city. They now praise the Lord for all that has happened to Naomi. She returned from Moab an embittered woman with a foreigner for a daughter-in-law and few prospects for a happy future. But nothing is too hard for our God and now we see this beautiful situation, full of contentment on the part of all concerned.

And best of all, God has produced the son, Obed, who constituted one more step in the long ancestral line which reached its greatest fulfillment in the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Life and Work

A fulfilling old age

By Larry W. Fields, pastor,
Harrisburg, Tupelo
Numbers 13:1-2a, 30; Joshua 14:7-13

Caleb is a good role model for all ages but especially for senior church members. Because of medical advancements, people are living longer today and as a result the number of senior citizens is increasing yearly. One person has described this as "the graying of America" as older people gain more political strength and influence.

Caleb exemplifies "resilience in the rocking chair" as his greatest work and witness came in his sunset years. One of the common barriers to happy and fulfilling senior years is an internal problem. People feel out of the mainstream of life and have the attitude that there is little left for them to do. Certainly, adjustments are necessary, but Caleb demonstrates that old age can be rewarding and productive.

I. Faith in the face of fear (Numbers 13:1-2a, 30)

The Israelites, under Moses, arrived at the border of the Promised Land at Kadesh-barnea eleven months after their release from Egypt. They had received the Mosaic law, accepted the covenant, established the tabernacle, and designated the tribe of Levi as the priestly tribe. Everything was ready for them to enter the land.

Moses sent out 12 spies, one representing each tribe, to report on productivity and military defenses. Caleb represented the tribe of Judah. After 40 days they returned and praised the fertility and desirability of the land. However, ten of the spies feared the great armies, strong men, and fortified cities they had observed. The people were fearful and desired to turn back.

Caleb, joined by Joshua, showed faith, vision and daring by challenging the people to take the risk with the assurance that God was with them. The people wanted it but they were not willing to pay the price to take the land because of their fear and lack of faith. The result was that this generation, save Caleb and Joshua, would never set foot in Canaan.

II. Wholly following the Lord (Joshua 14:7-9)

Years later the new generation of Israelites with their two godly veterans, had entered Canaan and were in the process of dividing the land after a series of military victories. Caleb, age 85, reminded Joshua, the new leader, of a promise made by Moses years before.

Recounting the incident at Kadesh-barnea, he recalled how fear took the

fight out of the people and how they panicked and refused to invade. He and Joshua alone remained faithful. This incident was not reviewed for self-praise but thanksgiving that God had spared him. His loyalty and faith sustained him in that day, even when threatened by the majority (Numbers 14:10). He had stood true for God when the majority wanted to go in another direction. He wholly followed the Lord no matter what the cost. Herschel Hobbs calls Caleb a man of "grit, grace, and gumption." He was totally committed to God's will. George W. Truett was correct when he said, "The will of God is not always easy, but it is always right."

The incident at Kadesh-barnea reminds us that the majority at a church business meeting or at a denominational convention does not get an automatic stamp of approval as the will of God. Like Caleb we must seek to follow the Lord totally and completely. III. Strength despite old age (Joshua 14:9-12)

Caleb wanted no part of retirement and the rocking chair. Despite his age he desired the difficult mountain, not the easy plain. God had more work for him to do. He was ready. He refused to be an old man in his dotage boasting about past exploits. He was interested in the present and the future. God through Moses had promised him Hebron and despite the fact it was still defended, he and his family were strong and with God's help they would take it. Caleb gave God credit for his longevity and motivation. As long as he lived he would be strong for the Lord.

IV. The reward of a faithful servant (Joshua 14:12)

Joshua praised God for Caleb and gave him the land and challenge he desired. The Lord keeps his promises to those who obey him.

Age is no excuse for idleness. Senior church members in growing numbers are saying to those of us who are younger, "Don't put us on the shelf. We are still useful and anxious to serve."

With more time available, senior members are stuffing envelopes, answering the church phones, visiting prospects, hospitals and nursing homes, working on the church grounds, serving on the money counting committee, and hundreds of other similar responsibilities. They have the "Caleb spirit." May their tribe increase.

True revival has always begun with and resulted in separation.—Vernon Patterson